

Application No. 10/806,052
Tseng et al.
Page 5 of 6

P910146CIP

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claim 1, and have cancelled claims 15 and 16. Claims 1-14 are presently pending in the application.

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-3 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Hurley (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0013253). Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Keller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,985,719) in view of Hurley, and claims 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Keller et al. in view of Hurley and further in view of Tay et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0009900). Moreover, claims 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Keller et al. in view of Hurley and further in view of Tay et al., and further in view of Ma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,207,586). Additionally, claims 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Keller et al. in view of Hurley and further in Gill (U.S. Patent No. 5,420,060).

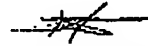
Regarding these rejections, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Richard A. Booth for the Examiner Interview conducted with Applicants' representative, Kenton R. Mullins, on May 22, 2006. In this discussion, it was indicated by Examiner Booth that the independent claim as presently amended would appear to distinguish over the prior art of record. It was suggested that submission of the current Amendment by Applicant would appear to result in withdrawal of the outstanding prior-art rejections to the extent the claim reflects the content discussed with Examiner Booth, which it does. Examiner Booth reserved the right, however, to consider the matter further and to conduct an update search. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with Applicants' representative would be helpful to advance the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Application No. 10/806,052
Tseng et al.
Page 6 of 6

P910146CIP

Respectfully submitted,



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May 22, 2006

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